



Multicultural Affairs Committee (MCA)
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2011

Attendees: Crystal Carr, Carmen Contee, Nivea Cordova Berrios, Cathy Drzyzgula, Lingling He, Samira Hussein, Washington Nsangu, Maxine Oliver, Linda Plummer, Patricia Rogers, and Ken Weiss

Absences: Kenneth Combs

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM:

I. TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

A. Review and Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes approved.

B. Old Business:

- 1) **American Indian and Native Alaskan Heritage Month Debrief** – Linda thanked the Committee for their efforts in planning a successful and educational event with great food and entertainment.
- 2) **MLK Tribute and Celebration & Literary Art Contest Winners** -Crystal updated the Committee on the results of the MLK Literary Arts contest who read their essays at the County celebration on January 17 and at the Gaithersburg Mayor and City Council meeting on January 18. The winners were Skyler Thiessen and Sofia Vallone, 5th graders at Gaithersburg Elementary School, and Thriyambek Ramachandran, a sophomore at Quince Orchard High School.
- 3) **African American History Month Celebration**-Linda gave an update on this year's event. Starting at 6p.m. there will be a reception in the City Hall Gallery celebrating six Heroes and Sheroes. The menu will consist of soul food and be provided by Catering 2 You, Inc.

A dress rehearsal has been scheduled for 5:15p.m. in the Gallery for the impersonators and the event program will consist of the following: 1) Washington Nsangou (South African President Nelson Mandela) - Will deliver a quote from Nelson Mandela; 2) Pamela Mathews/Ella Fitzgerald- Will sing verse or two of a selection by Ella Fitzgerald; 3) Officer A.L. Aubrey -Montgomery County Police

Department (Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)- Will recite a passage from, "I Have A Dream," speech; Mrs. West (Rosa Park)- Will be dressed in character holding a photo of bus with the Rosa Park's video playing in rotation in the background that will be cued for viewing; 5) TBD(Michael Jackson)- Will perform a dance redemption of the Moon Walk; and 6) TBD (President Barack Obama)- Will recite a passage from, "Yes, We Can!" speech. Along with photography the City's Public Information Office will be videoing the program in the Gallery and provide MCA members with a copy.

Following the reception, the Mayor will deliver this year's proclamation during the Mayor and City Council meeting to be received by Dr. Paul Vance. After the proclamation, the "Black National Anthem" and video will be played in the Gallery and broadcast on the City's cable station.

- 4) **Arab American Heritage Month** – Crystal and Samira provided an update on plans thus far for the month's celebration. During the April 4th Mayor and City Council Meeting the proclamation will be delivered and the festival has tentatively been scheduled for April 30th from 12-4p.m. Another date being explored is Sunday, April 17th during the same times.

Committee members were encouraged to be there at the beginning of the program, around 1p.m., to be recognized and provide a show of support for the event. This year, a poster display with all of the Committee members will sit beside the stage to further acknowledge the Committee's co-sponsorship of the event.

Samira reported that Liberty's Promise students have already committed to again serve as volunteers. Patricia has also graciously volunteered to join Samira, Julieta, and Crystal on the planning committee for this year's event. Welcome Patricia!

C. New Business:

- 1) **Gaithersburg Book Festival** – Ken is working on collecting information on diverse and/or bilingual authors to participate in this year's Book Festival to be held on May 21st. Patricia, Linda, and Nivea provided some contacts at the meeting and Ken welcomed future recommendations as well.
- 2) **Asian Pacific Heritage Month-** The celebration reception in the Gallery and Proclamation during a Mayor and City Council meeting has been scheduled for May 16th.
- 3) **17th Jerusalem Women Speak 2010 Tour -"One Land, Two Peoples, Three Faiths –Time for Reconciliation, Justice, and Peace" Speaking Tour-** Samira was invited and selected as one of the three speakers for the 2010 Tour, traveling to Washington, D.C., Maryland, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Oklahoma to share her and her family's experiences and enhancing cultural understanding. The committee expressed their pride and encouragement for Samira's work and suggested that she create an educational display for the Arab American Heritage Month Festival.

- 4) **Survey of Committee Member Volunteers-** Cathy surveyed the Committee to ascertain how they would like to be recognized and thanked for their work as volunteers. The Committee suggested vouchers for performances at the Arts Barn and/or free admission for miniature golf.
- 5) **Youth Involvement with the Committee-**Carmen inquired about the Committee's recruitment for youth membership. Several students earlier in the school year expressed interest, but henceforth have not participated. Crystal offered to again approach the nonprofit members of the Youth Opportunities Coalition working in Gaithersburg High School to recruit membership.

II. NEXT MEETING:

March 10, 2011, 7:00PM- Community Services Conference Room

III. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
(Crystal Carr)